



Recreational Fishing in Australia (at a glance)

- High participation rate (20 – 25% of population)
- High levels of expenditure (+\$2billion)
- Insufficiently defined
- Incredibly diverse
- Difficult to manage
- Fragmented jurisdictionally
- Lacking property or access rights



Current R, D & E Planning

Recfishing Research:

Its role is to:

- identify national rec fisheries RDE priorities and to promote
 - R&D to address these priorities
 - Extension & uptake of knowledge
- facilitate R&D projects in priority areas
- complement the work of state agencies & rec bodies

Its scope includes

- RDE relevant to rec fisheries nationally
- RDE priorities/programs which address issues that span jurisdictional boundaries
- investment in relevant RDE projects



Major Issues –current and future

- Quantifying the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing
- Building capacity in the recreational fishing sector
- Maintaining recreational fishing statistics
- Developing & promoting best practices in recreational fishing
- Understanding the impacts of management measures
- Enhancing recreational fisheries
- Understanding the impacts of environmental and climate changes




Desired outcomes from a national RD&E framework

- Focused research on sustainability of fish resources
- Focused research on social, health and economic benefits of rec fishing
- Improving the sector's engagement with governments and other research providers at an early stage
- **Improving the sector's ability to undertake its own research, extension and development**



Top 5 strategies/areas for improvement

- R, D & E must be valued and have practical outcomes
- R, D & E must involve stakeholders from the early stages
- Strategy must encourage private and sector based research providers
- There must be strong commitment from government and industry to fund R, D & E
- Remember the arrows



*“Thinking of a typical system or organisational diagram represented by boxes connected by arrows, it is critical for overall system cohesion to allocate resources explicitly to the **arrows – the linkage and communication mechanisms – not just the boxes.**”*

A. Campbell 2006. *The NRM knowledge system in Australia*. River & Riparian Lands Management Newsletter, 30:7-8